

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



School children read from the articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at yesterday's celebration of the Day of the African Child. See more in today's *'Special Court Supplement'*.

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office**

**as at:**

Thursday, 17 June 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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## Prisons Watch Fetes

### Approved School Inmates

*By Cecil Cole  
Showers Jr*

As part of the Day of the African Child Celebration, Prison Watch Sierra Leone, a Non-Governmental Organization advocating for inmates throughout the country, yesterday feted inmates of Approved School with supports from the Special Courts Office in Sierra Leone. Donations include used clothings, rubber sandals and books for the boys. Feika Mambu is

the Coordinator of Prison Watch Sierra Leone who disclosed that his organization is committed in playing advocacy roles and dialogues with stakeholders for the welfare of inmates.

"We must say thanks to the Special Court of Sierra Leone for donating to the Approved School Inmates and we are especially thankful to the Deputy Registrar of the Court Mr. Joseph Kamara for his passion to see that in-

mates of Approved School are part of the commemoration of the African Child's Day," Feika stated.

Responding, the Deputy Prosecutor of the Special Court maintained that his organization will continue to help inmates of Approved School when the need arises.

He appealed to the boys to be good at all time so that they will be good Sierra Leoneans in future.

## **Is There a Need to Incorporate the Provisions of the Rome Statute 1998 into Sierra Leone Law?**

*Contd. from last edition*

The Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court represent the greatest advance in International criminal law in the last fifty years. This is not merely a step but a quantum leap forward in the journey towards international justice. The function of International criminal law is to ensure that wrong doers are brought to justice and to ensure that countries and the communities that they contain are safeguarded. This is better facilitated

by the adoption and implementation of national legislation that brings the law closer to the people that it seeks to serve and protect.

Sierra Leone is a nation that understands that it exists not in "splendid isolation" but it exists as part of an international community. A community where there are mutual obligations and also corresponding responsibilities. In compliance thereof Sierra Leone has

signed and ratified the Rome Statute. This further signifies the recognition that this is an important part of its legal framework and jurisprudence. The question then arises what further steps are required in order to comply with these voluntarily entered into international obligations and what more is needed to ensure that the national framework of law can facilitate the justice that society demands.

Charlestaylortrial.org

Wednesday, 16 June 2010

## **Witness Testifies About RUF Recruitment and Training In Liberia, Says She Did Not Hear Of Assistance From Charles Taylor**

By Alpha Sesay

A woman who helped top Sierra Leonean rebels recruit and train fighters in Liberia in the early 1990s today said that Charles Taylor was not involved in that effort as far as she knew. Her testimony contradicts prosecution allegations that the former Liberia president backed rebel forces as they planned to invade Sierra Leone in 1991.

Isatu Kallon, known as “Mammie Iye” said she helped top rebel leader, Foday Sankoh of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in his drive to enlist and train rebel forces, but not once did he or other top rebel commanders hint at Mr. Taylor’s involvement in their efforts. Prosecutors, meanwhile, have alleged that the RUF rebels received substantial support from Mr. Taylor in recruiting and training fighters for the invasion of Sierra Leone after his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group attacked Liberia in 1989. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations, telling the court that he had no knowledge that RUF rebels were being recruited and trained in Liberia.

“Madam Kallon, that meeting that Pa Morlai [another name for Foday Sankoh] held in your house, do you know whether during the course of that meeting, the name Charles Taylor was ever mentioned?” asked Morris Anyah, defense counsel for Charles Taylor.

“At that time, no,” Mrs. Kallon responded.

Mr. Anyah also asked the witness about her conversation with another senior RUF member, Philip Palmer, whom she said was transporting Sierra Leonean volunteers for training to a place called Sokoto at Camp Naama in Liberia after they had been freed from the hands of NPFL rebels.

“When Palmer came with the truck and the volunteers entered the truck, and when Palmer later on came back two days after, during that two day period of time, did you ever hear Palmer mention the name Charles Taylor?” Mr. Anyah asked.

“No.” the witness said.

“When Palmer spoke of this place Sokoto and he mentioned that it was somewhere near Naama, during that conversation with him, did the name Charles Taylor come up?” Mr. Anyah asked.

“No,” Mrs. Kallon said.

Mrs. Kallon went on to tell the Special Court for Sierra Leone that when Mr. Taylor’s rebel forces – the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) — attacked Liberia in 1989, Sierra Leonean rebels in that group were harassed until they were rescued by RUF leader Mr. Sankoh. These Sierra Leonean nationals came to like Mr. Sankoh since he had saved their lives.

“There was too much harassment so when the Pa [Sankoh] came, he was able to stop that so they liked him,” Mrs. Kallon said.

Mrs. Kallon added that “he [Sankoh] sympathized with the people for the harassment. He told them not to blame the NPFL fighters but to blame our government because our government should have rescued us.”

On some occasions, Mrs. Kallon said that she also helped Mr. Sankoh to rescue Sierra Leonean nationals who were later recruited into the RUF.

Mrs. Kallon told the court that she used to provide food and soap for the RUF rebels while they underwent training at Sokoto in Camp Naama. She said Mr. Sankoh used to give her money to provide those services to the RUF but the money was never enough and so she had to use her own resources to provide enough food for the trainees.

Asked how she got extra money to provide these services to the RUF, Mrs. Kallon said that “through the business that I was doing.” She said that her husband also used to help with some money.

Asked whether she knew of any other people who provided such assistance to the RUF rebels, the witness said that “I know about myself but the area was so big, I did not go to the other places. I only know about myself and my husband.”

According to the witness, when she visited the scene to have a first hand look at the people she was providing support for, she found out that the RUF recruits were being trained in a valley at Camp Naama. The NPFL fighters, she said were being trained on a hill at the same Camp Naama.

When asked by Mr. Anyah whether the NPFL fighters ever interacted with the RUF recruits, the witness said that “the time that I went there, no.”

The witness said she also realized that the gate to Sokoto where the RUF rebels were being trained was always closed. She said she asked Mr. Sankoh why the gate was not open.

“He said his ideology that he gave his boys, he did not want them to mingle with the NPFL,” said told the court.

The witness said she could not tell what such ideology was.

Mrs. Kallon’s testimony continues today.


**United Nations**      **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary**  
**16 June 2010**

*[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]*

**UN News in Liberia**

**UNMIL Force Commander Awards UN Medals to Mongolian Guard Force in Sierra Leone**

[The Inquirer, New Vision, Front Page Africa]

- UNMIL Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Sikander Afzal on Friday 11 June 2010 travelled to Sierra Leone to participate in the medal award ceremonies for 150 officers of the Mongolian Guard Force stationed at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL).
- Lt. Gen. Sikander who represented the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Liberia, Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj awarded UN peacekeeping medals to the Mongolian Guard Force for their dedication, sacrifice and contribution in ensuring security of the SCSL.
- The Mongolian Force operates under the command of IJNMIL Force and provides security for the premises of the SCSL.
- The Registrar of the SCSL, Ms. Binta Mansaray who spoke at the ceremonies paid tribute to the Mongolian Contingent Commander, Lt. Col. Sodnomtsog Davaa for his strong leadership and tireless efforts.
- Messrs Hubert Price and Michael von der Schulenburg, UNMIL Director of Mission Support and the Executive Representative for the UN Integrated Peace Building Office in Sierra Leone respectively were amongst personalities attending the medal award ceremonies.

**UNMIL, Others Observe “Day of the African Child”**

[The Inquirer, Liberian Express, In Profile Daily, The Analyst]

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is today joining many of its partners, including the Liberian government, UNICEF, Red Cross, Save the Children as well as other child and women rights groups to observe the Day of the African Child (DAC).
- UNMIL said it is remembering the day in the slum community of West Point in Monrovia where many children are said to be living in abject poverty.
- As part of the celebrations, UNMIL said it has set a full agenda, ranging from sports, medical outreach, musical performances, and distribution of children gifts to messages that will come from the UN, the government, UNICEF and children themselves.
- Meanwhile, the Liberian government is also holding a separate programme in Bentol City, Montserrado County to commemorate the day under the theme “Planning and Budgeting for Children.”
- The DAC can be traced back to 1976 during the apartheid rule of South Africa where hundreds of school children advocating for equal rights and opportunities were gunned down in the Township of Soweto, outside Johannesburg.
- It also marks the beginning of a 100-day period of global action to get the world back on track to reach the international goal of reducing child death by two-third by 2015.

**Local News on Liberian issues**

**Full High Court Bench Hears Youth Group’s Writ of Prohibition**

[The Inquirer, Front Page Africa]

- The full bench of the Supreme Court of Liberia will today begin hearing into the petition for a writ of prohibition filed against the Liberia Institute of Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), and the National Legislature by the Concerned Setor Youth Development Association.

- The youth group called on the high court to prohibit the House not to act on the LISGIS report and pass the threshold bill.
- The decision by the high court to hear the case today was reached Tuesday when Chief Justice Johnnie Lewis denied the respondents' motion following lawyers' appeal for time to proceed and enable them intervene for an out of court settlement on the matter.
- In its application, prosecution informed the court that applications for time have always been made because some lawmakers are even making the process difficult by siding with the petitioners of the writ of prohibition on the bill.
- The lawyers appealed to the court to endorse the Liberian government's quest to continue the process of reaching a mutual settlement so that the matter can be resolved out of court.
- The state lawyers prayed the high court to at least grant them up to Monday, 21 June 2010 to appear in court for final argument if the parties do not succeed to their involvement.
- Chief Justice Lewis demanded that final argument in the prosecutions' Bill of Information be heard today because the court has received several requests to look into the matter.

### **Lawmaker Criticizes Planned Meeting for Selected Colleagues**

[The News]

- Maryland County Representative Bhofal Chambers has criticized a planned meeting of selected members of the House of Representatives to discuss the threshold bill.
- Dr. Chambers termed it as a "renegade gathering" that seeks to divide members of the august body.
- The Maryland lawmaker reaction comes after Deputy House Speaker Tokpa Mulbah Tuesday announced a meeting of some members of the House.
- Although Deputy Speaker Mulbah did not disclose the agenda of the meeting, he asserted that the forum seeks to solicit support from lawmakers who are said to be from counties with large population to ensure that the threshold bill is passed in a manner that the current 64 seats are maintained.
- He said the manner in which the meeting was called by the Deputy Speaker at the end of Tuesday's session was awful and the Deputy Speaker should immediately call off the meeting scheduled for today.

### **"Liberia's Security Sector is Undercapitalized" Says Margibi Lawmaker**

[Heritage, Front Page Africa]

- Margibi County Representative Saah Gborlie says Liberia's security sector is undercapitalized in the current draft national budget amid the drawdown of the United Nations Forces in the country.
- The chairman of the House Committee on National Security said it is appalling that close to the 2011 elections national security agencies like the Bureau of Immigration are being underfunded.
- Representative Gborlie said this action by the administration of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf can easily be regarded as sedition.
- The Margibi lawmaker said over the last four years government's financial managers have treated the Liberian security sector as a low priority.
- He said it was time that financial experts of government recognize that security is the foundation for democratic growth which encompasses economic viability.

### **Brazil Explores Investment Opportunities in Liberia**

[Liberian Express, The News, Heritage, Public Agenda]

- A 19-man Brazilian team exploring the investment opportunities of Liberia will today end its three-day visit to Liberia.
- A release from the Commerce Ministry said the team arrived in the country over the weekend and has since held talks with key government ministries and agencies.
- The team met with the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Land, Mines and Energy, Agriculture, and Foreign Affairs and the Cooperative Development Agency.
- The release stressed that the group is eyeing investments in the areas of building materials and the production of sugar and cassava.

### **GAC Accuses Finance Ministry of Freezing Allotments in Budget**

[The News, Liberian Express, In Profile Daily, Heritage, New Vision, The Analyst, Front Page Africa]

- The General Auditing Commission (GAC) has accused the Finance Ministry of deliberately freezing its allotments in order to prevent its auditors from conducting pending audits of the county development funds.

- The GAC, in a release noted that the alleged action by the Finance Ministry is related to the findings of the HIPC audit in which it reported that Ministry failed to account for several hundreds of dollars.
- The Commission accused the Ministry of freezing USD\$432,053 of the US\$500,000 provided by the National Legislature during the fiscal period 2009/2010.
- Explaining further, the GAC indicated that the overall budget increase during fiscal period 2009/2010 by the Executive Branch was US\$15,400 while the National Legislature provided US\$500,000, but this amount provided by the Legislature is a near-zero increment.
- It said this amount frozen by the Finance Ministry now undermines its work to print audit observations and perform other audit related tasks.
- Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry has rejected and described a General Auditing Commission (GAC) report as false and misleading that the commission was being financially strangled.

### **Liberian Coca-Cola Company Alarms of Fraudsters and Individuals Posing as Employees**

[Public Agenda]

- Fraudsters and individuals believed to be “419s” have criminally infiltrated the Liberian Coca-Cola Bottling Company (LCCBC) deceiving customers of the entity under the guise of being employees and sales agents of the company.
- Making the disclosure Tuesday, the company’s Public Affairs Director Gabriel Johnson said the individuals were in the constant habit of harassing and collecting money from customers under the pretext of supplying and taking away mini tables as they displayed what he described as fraudulent identification cards bearing the name of the company.
- Mr. Johnson has called on the public and customers to be on the alert and report any suspicion of such an act to the company.
- The warning comes after one of the company’s customers, Abraham Kamara, reported that he was robbed in such manner.

### **Local Group Launches US\$26,000 Small Arms Project in Bomi**

[In Profile Daily]

- A group calling itself Liberians United to Expose Hidden Weapons (LUEHW) has launched a US\$26,000 small arms project in Bomi County.
- The project, launched in Sinje, Klay District, seeks to support peace and reconciliation among people with different ethical and political backgrounds.
- According to LUEHW’s executive director Kofa Torbor, the programme will also follow-up on the activities of ex-combatants who were reintegrated in the communities.
- He said they will get up-to-date information on the ex-combatants’ activities and report to government and the United Nations.
- According to Mr. Torbor, since the inception of the group in 2003, it has found and turned over more than 5,000 small arms to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and are still committed to rid Liberia of unwanted and unauthorized weapons.
- Also speaking at the launch of the project, Bomi County Superintendent Mohamed Massaley thanked the group for taking the initiative and called on citizens, mainly youth and women groups, to support the process.
- Superintendent Massaley praised UNMIL for its role in Liberia’s peace process and challenged citizens of his county to build on the peace that the UN has restored.

### **Star Radio** *(News monitored today at 09:00 am)*

#### **UP Official Wants Enforcement of Laws Governing Political Parties**

- An official of the ruling Unity Party (UP) has called for the full implementation of laws governing political parties in the country.
- Mr. Ben Fofana said laws which call for political parties to have their headquarters in Monrovia and other parts of the counties are not being adhered to.
- Mr. Fofana claims most political parties are being run out of individual’s pockets in the hope of being accommodated in future governments as opposition.
- The UP official who spoke in Kakata, Margibi County Monday called on the National Elections Commission to ban political parties being funded from individual’s pockets to serve as a deterrent.

### **Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 09:45 am)*

#### **“Liberia’s Security Sector is Undercapitalized” Says Margibi Lawmaker**

*(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

**Finance Ministry Rejects GAC's Claims**  
(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

**International Clip on Liberia**

**Vattenfall acquires share in Liberian biomass supplier**  
[www.pennenergy.com](http://www.pennenergy.com)

Vattenfall, together with Swedfund, has acquired a 30 per cent stake in Buchanan Renewables Fuel Limited of Liberia in an effort to expand the operations and secure a significant biomass supply. Vattenfall's share will be 20 per cent, and Swedfund's 10 per cent. Vattenfall has an existing sourcing agreement with Buchanan Renewables, and now takes a 20 per cent share, with Swedfund holding the other 10 per cent. Using biomass is key to Vattenfall reducing its emissions from fossil carbon dioxide. It is a renewable energy source that can replace coal in existing power plants. Since the supply of biomass in Europe is limited import will be necessary to meet an increased demand. The acquisition of a share in Buchanan Renewables Fuel is a natural first step towards building an international sourcing portfolio to secure a long-term supply of biomass that meets high sustainability requirements. "The use of waste rubber trees at the end of their productive life is environmentally and economically an ideal source of biomass to replace coal and reduce our carbon footprint. There is also a great potential to expand the operations of Buchanan Renewables to deliver up to two million tonnes of biomass per year to Vattenfall," says Göran Lundgren, vice president, responsible for Vattenfall's biomass programme. Swedfund is Sweden's leading development finance institution that specializes in investments in developing countries, and is state-owned.

**UN to Shutdown Critical Air Service to West Africa**  
[www1.voanews.com](http://www1.voanews.com)

The World Food Program says it will have to shut down the U.N. Humanitarian Air Service in the West African countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia because it has run out of cash. The World Food Program says shutting down the Humanitarian Air Service on Wednesday will have terrible consequences for about one-quarter of a million people in West Africa who rely on the service for essential needs. The U.N. agency says the West African Coastal service needs \$2.5 million to stay in operation until the end of the year. WFP spokeswoman Emilia Casella says the shutdown will have a dramatic effect. "People in the really far-flung parts of Guinea and Sierra Leone and Liberia - they will be waiting for medical attention that will not arrive," she said. "They will be waiting for educational support, for water and sanitation engineers to help them with their wells. They will be waiting for people who help to train local community leaders because these are countries that are recovering from years of conflict and trying to rebuild." Casella says this kind of progress can be impeded without the support of non-governmental organizations, U.N. agencies, and voluntary humanitarian organizations that help. "Even though they are small programs, they are important programs to these countries," she said. And, right now, Guinea is in a moment of election and this is a delicate time to be stopping that kind of support."

**Charges vs. Liberian teen in rape case dismissed**  
[www.azcentral.com](http://www.azcentral.com)

A Maricopa County Juvenile Court judge on Monday threw out charges against the lone remaining defendant in the gang rape last July of an 8-year-old girl in west Phoenix. Judge Bethany Hicks was forced to dismiss the case on a technicality. The boy, 13, was undergoing "restoration," or schooling to prepare him to understand the court process. An expert deemed him competent to stand trial, but the process was not completed within the time limit set by state law. Hicks dismissed the case over the objection of Deputy County Attorney Cindi Nannetti, who prosecuted the case. Nannetti said her office will appeal the ruling. Hicks asked the boy's court-appointed legal guardian to prepare a report as to whether he should remain a ward of the court. On July 16, 2009, four boys ranging in age from 9 to 14 used a pack of gum to lure their 8-year-old victim to a storage closet at a west Phoenix apartment complex. The 14-year-old held her down as the four boys took turns sexually assaulting her, authorities said. All were charged with kidnapping, sexual assault, sexual conduct with a minor and attempted sexual conduct with a minor. All of the children, including the victim, are refugees from the African nation of Liberia. The Arizona Republic is withholding their names. In most cases, The Republic does not identify juvenile defendants unless they are charged as adults.

**International Clips on West Africa**

## Guinea

### **U.S. State Department issues travel warning to Guinea due to political situation** **[www.islandcrisis.net](http://www.islandcrisis.net)**

The Department of State on Wednesday issued a travel warning to Guinea, warning U.S. citizens of the risks of visiting this country, which continues to face a difficult political situation. Guinea's political situation remains unpredictable, and despite the fact the western African nation has been relatively calm since January 15, the potential for violence persists. U.S. citizens are advised that, although the U.S. Embassy in Conakry returned to full staffing on March 29 after a six-month evacuation of family members and non-emergency staff, minor children of U.S. citizen employees of the Embassy will not be returning to Guinea at present. As the upcoming elections approach, U.S. citizens are urged to exercise extreme caution, to be particularly alert to their surroundings, and to avoid crowds, demonstrations, or any other form of public gathering. Visitors to Guinea should be familiar with their hotel evacuation plans, policies, or procedures. Furthermore, U.S. citizens in Guinea should carry their travel documents (passport, birth certificate, picture IDs, etc.) with them at all times. U.S. citizens in Guinea are reminded to stay in contact with friends and family in the United States to keep them apprised of their current welfare and whereabouts. The U.S. Embassy in Guinea is open, and its consular section continues to provide emergency and other services to U.S. citizens. However, citizens should be aware that the Embassy may be forced to suspend all operations, including emergency services, without advance notice if the security situation deteriorates.

### **DJ Rusal: Reaffirms Commitment with Guinea Government to Partnership** **<http://news.tradingcharts.com>**

Russian aluminum producer United Co. Rusal PLC Tuesday said it had concluded talks and signed agreements with the Guinean government for several alumina and bauxite projects. A Rusal delegation headed by Chief Executive Oleg Deripaska had talks with Guinean Prime Minister Jean-Marie Dore and its acting president, Brigadier General Sekouba Konate, Rusal said in a statement. "The two parties determined the major areas of focus for long-term cooperation between UC Rusal and the Republic of Guinea and reaffirmed their commitment to a strategic partnership," the company said. Rusal said it had agreed to the schedule and terms for developing the Dian bauxite deposit. It also discussed prolonging the current tax and customs rates for Rusal's Friguia bauxite and alumina complex. Rusal said its unit Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinee also signed an agreement to establish a three-party commission that will determine the joint use of railways and ports owned by Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinee.

## Sierra Leone

### **Sierra Leone's election to test democracy: Ban Ki-moon** **AFP**

UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday praised Sierra Leone for its successful recovery from a decade-long civil conflict, but warned that elections in 2012 would prove the litmus test for democracy. Wrapping up a two-day visit to the West African nation, Ban told a press conference that "Sierra Leone remains one of the successful examples of recovery and has proved that peaceful democratic changes are possible. "What I have seen during my visit gives me hope and vibrancy for the African continent," he added, urging the government "to further commit itself to more gains." The UN chief said the upcoming national elections in 2012 "will be a litmus test for participatory democracy... The UN, whilst optimistic about the future of Sierra Leone will give all round assistance to strengthen democratic institutions in the country." This is Ban's first visit to Sierra Leone, where UN troops were deployed in 1999 to end an 11-year long civil war that left thousands dead or maimed by both government and rebel forces. At the height of the transition some 17,500 foreign troops were present, in the most important peace mission organised by the United Nations at that point, before it deployed more than 20,000 personnel in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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## BBC Online

Thursday, 17 June 2010

### Sudan: Darfur rebel leaders due in Hague court

Twelve Africa peacekeepers died in the attack on 29 September 2007



Two Sudan rebel leaders are due to face war crimes charges at the International Criminal Court in The Hague over an attack on peacekeepers in Darfur.

Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain and Saleh Mohammed Jerbo Jamus surrendered to the ICC on Wednesday after being secretly indicted last year.

Twelve African Union peacekeepers died in the 2007 attack in Haskanita.

Earlier this year, charges against another rebel leader to do with the same incident were dropped.

ICC judges ruled prosecutors could not prove that Bahr Idriss Abu Garda, who also gave himself up voluntarily, had planned the attack on the Haskanita AU camp in September 2007.

The two are due to face charges of:

- Murder
- Intentionally directing attacks against peacekeeping personnel
- Stealing property



"It is alleged that the attackers, numbering approximately 1,000, were armed with anti-aircraft guns, artillery guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers," said an ICC statement.

In January 2008, the UN took joint control of the peacekeeping force in Darfur with increased numbers and a stronger mandate.

Last year, Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir was indicted on war crimes, which were the first issued by the ICC against a sitting president.

He strongly denies the charges - and his government says figures of those killed in the Darfur conflict have been massively exaggerated.

According to the UN, an estimated 300,000 people have been killed in Darfur and more than 2.6 million displaced since ethnic rebels took up arms in 2003.

A government minister and pro-government militia leader have also been indicted for alleged war crimes in Darfur.

The ICC wants the UN Security Council to press Sudan to hand them over.

## Hirondelle News Agency

Tuesday, 15 June 2010

### **Priest tells Appeals Court he is not a Monster**

Genocide convict Father Emmanuel Rukundo told the Appeals Court of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on Tuesday that his trial had been unfair.

"I am not the monster the Prosecutor described, I am not the genocide perpetrator that the lower court judges made me out to be in the eyes of the world," the catholic priest protested before the Appeals Chamber.

Trial Chamber II of the UN Tribunal convicted this former Military Chaplain on February 27, 2009 of genocide, extermination and murder of people who had sought refuge at St. Joseph's College and St. Leon Seminary in Gitarama area, central Rwanda. He was sentenced to 25 years in jail and immediately lodged an appeal.

Rukundo was found to have played an integral role on four occasions in abduction and killing of the Tutsi refugees. The Trial Chamber notably held that there was clear evidence that Rukundo directed the killings of Tutsi civilians in Gitarama area during the 1994 genocide.

But Rukundo protested his innocence. "Human justice is not always just," he told the Appeals Court. "Sometimes it is unfair and arbitrary."

"There is nothing worse for an innocent than to have to defend himself," he continued, saying he hoped that "truth would be restored".

For her part, Defence Counsel Aicha Conde rejected all the accusations against her client, saying they were "total fabrications, made up from beginning to end".

She said the lower court had failed to take account of contradictions in the testimonies of prosecution witnesses. "The Chamber tried to compensate for the Prosecutor's shortcomings, to come to his rescue," she said, and called for an acquittal.

Gambian prosecutor Ousman Jammeh called, on the other hand, for the Appeals Court to increase Rukundo's sentence to the maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

"We are asking you to reverse the decision and to impose the appropriate sentence, which is imprisonment for the remainder of his life," he said, invoking "the gravity of the offences".

The date of the Appeals judgment will be announced later.

Rukundo was arrested in Switzerland in July 2001 and transferred to the ICTR detention centre two months later.

ER/GF/JC

© Hirondelle News Agency

## The New Times (Kigali)

Thursday, 17 June 2010

### Rwanda: Government Surprised by ICTR U-Turn

Our Reporter

Kigali — Prosecutor General, Martin Ngoga, yesterday said that the Government was surprised by a demand from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) seeking the release of American defence lawyer, Peter Erlinder.

The Arusha based Tribunal had Tuesday maintained that Erlinder has immunity from prosecution as a defence lawyer at ICTR, but that applies only when he is in Rwanda on work related to the tribunal. Ngoga said he was surprised by the different position taken by the ICTR.

"The Prosecution has always maintained that the case against Erlinder is not related to his work at the ICTR," Ngoga explained in a press statement.

He said there were mixed messages from the ICTR on Peter Erlinder's case which needed clarification.

"I will meet with them in the coming days to ascertain precisely why they appear to have changed their minds so drastically," explained Ngoga.

He said the country respects the role and mandate of the ICTR, and "we look forward to constructive discussions with them over Erlinder's matter."

"The arrest of Erlinder and the questions he is being asked do not seem to be linked to his activities at the tribunal," ICTR spokesman, Roland Amoussouga had told Agence France Presse (AFP) Tuesday.

Amoussouga said ICTR will not take an interest in his fate, but rather that the formulation of the ICTR's reaction will depend on what elements the prosecution decides to use against the accused.

Relevant Links

He said the court does not claim to have the power or the mandate to obtain immunity for its lawyers in cases that are not directly linked to their work at the ICTR.

"There are two situations where we can claim immunity for our lawyers: when they are on a trip for the ICTR and when the actions they are accused of committing were carried out in the framework of a case they are defending at the ICTR," Amoussouga explained.

Erlinder appeared before the High Court in Kigali on Monday to appeal against the ruling by a lower court to be remanded in custody awaiting the beginning of his trial on charges of Genocide denial.

The Gasabo Intermediate Court denied him bail on the basis that the charges against him were serious and there was strong evidence attesting to this. The bail ruling will be determined today.

America.gov (Washington, DC)

Tuesday, 15 June 2010

## **Africa: U.S. Influence Being Felt at International Criminal Court**

Stephen Kaufman

The 111 countries party to the International Criminal Court (ICC) adopted aggression as a prosecutable crime after a two-week review conference in Uganda, but the leaders of the U.S. delegation to the conference say the Obama administration's engagement with the ICC as an observer nation helped to more carefully define the crime and ensured that it will be prosecuted in only the most egregious circumstances. The ICC also agreed to conduct a review of its approach to prosecuting aggression in 2017.

Speaking to reporters June 15 after attending the May 31-June 11 conference in Kampala, the State Department's ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues, Stephen Rapp, and legal adviser Harold Hongju Koh said the discussion over aggression had shifted the conference away from the ICC's core human rights mission.

"Now a nonfinal approach has been tentatively reached, which takes the issue off the table for the next seven years with a notional solution that can be re-examined in 2017," Koh said.

Rapp said the U.S. delegation had concerns not only with the definition of aggression, but also that by having the ICC take political sides by deciding to charge certain states while declining to charge other states with the crime, the court could find it difficult to get the kind of international cooperation "that it needs to deal with atrocity crimes."

"Even when you're going after the cases that involve mass atrocity, people accuse you of being politically motivated," Rapp said. "But what's happened, as we've seen in the last 15 years, is that when a leader has been charged by one of these courts and there's strong evidence of his involvement in mass atrocity against innocent civilians, eventually it becomes possible to dislodge that leader, as we saw with [Serbian leader Slobodan] Milosevic and as we saw with [Liberia's] Charles Taylor, and bring that person to justice."

Rapp said the U.S. argument gained the support of 50 international human rights organizations that circulated a letter to the ICC countries saying "it wasn't a good idea for this court to go there."

In the end, while adopting aggression as a crime subject to ICC prosecution, "we had a deferral, at least of the ability of this court, to move into the aggression area until 2017," Rapp said. "This gives the court seven more years to get it right in terms of going after atrocity crime."

Koh said the ICC was founded only recently, in 2002, and has not completed any cases yet. The tentative outcome on the aggression issue was due to a general realization among ICC member states that more time was needed, he said.

The United States was among the countries that voted against the 1998 Rome Statute that established the ICC. But Koh said that after 12 years, "I think we have reset the default on the U.S. relationship with the court, from hostility to positive engagement."

This is due to three Obama administration policies at work, Koh said. The United States supports accountability, international criminal justice and ending impunity, as evidenced, he said, by its support for international tribunals addressing atrocities in Rwanda, Yugoslavia, Cambodia and other countries.

Second, under Obama, the United States has supported principled engagement with international institutions, such as its participation in the U.N. Human Rights Council and the 2009 talks in Copenhagen on climate change and its leadership in nuclear nonproliferation and security, Koh said.

In his November 2009 acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize, President Obama also argued that there are occasions in the 21st century when the use of force is lawful, and Koh said, "The question is how to make sure that [such instances] are not criminalized if they're lawful."

In resetting its relationship with the ICC, "principled engagement worked to protect our interests, to improve the outcome and to bring us renewed international good will," Koh said. "As one delegate put it to me, the U.S. was once again seen, with respect to the ICC, as part of the solution, and not the problem."

Rapp said the United States hopes to continue its work toward improving the effectiveness of the ICC. The court has taken up cases against alleged atrocities in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur and the Central African Republic, thus relieving the United Nations from having to establish special courts to mete out justice, accountability and the protection of victims in those situations.

#### Relevant Links

"We recognized ... [that] it's in our interest to support those prosecutions, not at this time as a member of the ICC, but in kind with assistance, as long as it's consistent with our law," he said.

At the same time, Rapp said, justice at the national level is preferable to justice at the international level, and the United States is working with the ICC to promote "complementarity" to strengthen national systems so that they can prosecute war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

"International justice alone ... doesn't have the kind of effect that you need to have on the ground if you're going to protect people from those crimes," he said. "And that was a message that had a very receptive audience in Africa, where there is a strong desire to see these cases prosecuted in the national system but with help in terms of capacity and independence, to ensure that justice is done."

# The Associated Press

Wednesday, 16 June 2010

## **TRANSCRIPT OF NEWS BRIEFING STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WASHINGTON, D.C. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HOLD A STATE DEPARTMENT NEWS BRIEFING ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT AND THE OUTCOME OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED REVIEW CONFERENCE** Roll Call, Inc. 1255 22nd Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037

DUGUID: Thank you. I believe we have time for one more question. Farah, please.

QUESTION: I was hoping you could tell us a little bit more about the discussions surrounding Sudan and the effectiveness -- I mean, a lot of people watched with dismay and don't feel like the court has been positive -- has gotten positive outcomes for people there. And I was hoping you could tell us a little bit more about the discussions there.

And my second question is about -- you've talked a lot about strengthening national justice systems, and there's an awful lot of people who say, OK, the ICTR is the last time we're ever going to have the international community coming in and imposing a -- sort of creating a justice system for a country, and more like they believe that we're going to see more like Sierra Leone and Cambodia, which is just assisting a national -- I mean, do you feel that that's the future, or do you think that, in fact, there will be -- the future really is in these international efforts?

RAPP: Well, first of all, on the Sudan issue -- and Kampala -- it was a good thing that this conference was in Africa and 30 countries in Africa -- more than -- I think there are about 55 countries in Africa -- but a substantial majority are members of the ICC. Uganda itself sent the first case to the ICC, the Kony case, by referral. And there were discussions, particularly in this Peace and Justice Forum, about the interplay of peace and justice, and the Sudan issue was there. But I think the bottom line of the conference is that everyone recognized that when there are cases before the court, states need to cooperate. And I think it strengthened the commitment of the African parties to assist in the cases in Africa and assisted the other countries in their resolve to ensure that arrests are made. So I think it actually was helpful to this challenging aspect of getting cooperation in Sudan.

In regard to the future of international justice, the possibility of ad hoc mixed courts at the national level -- I mean, the Sierra Leone is an example of that, though more international than national -- but where national judges sit with international judges, where there's international assistance to those courts, I think that remains very much an open possibility in the future. The ICC is never going to be able to prosecute more than three or four cases in each situation, and that -- and there may be situations where it's better to have a court close to the people, as we had in Sierra Leone or you have in Cambodia, with international help and assistance to provide the capacity and the independence, rather than send those cases thousands of miles away to The Hague.

And that's consistent with complementarity, consistent with the idea that it's better to do it at the national level. So I think our American interest will be to look for alternatives close to the ground, as we did in Kenya for instance, where we very strongly supported the Waki Commission report and the initiative of former Secretary General Annan that urged there to be a national independent court to deal with the post-election violence and to provide, perhaps, an international prosecutor in that or other international personnel to ensure the independence to give assurance to the victims that they wouldn't -- that they'd be properly treated because of some of the ethnic aspects of that conflict.

That's the best approach. Sadly, it didn't happen there. Because it didn't happen, it's gone to the ICC. But I think we'll always be working to try to do it there. And that was part of the message of the sessions on complementarity. There needs to be a continuum from the national level to the international, with the international level only handling a relative handful of cases and hopefully providing an incentive for countries to do it themselves so that it happens at the local level with their own people with assistance rather than thousands of miles administered by people that are unfamiliar with their culture and country.

DUGUID: Thank you, Ambassador Rapp. Thank you, Professor Koh. Thank you for joining us, ladies and gentlemen. We'll begin with the daily press briefing shortly. That's all the time we have.

END

## Dispatch Online

Thursday, 17 June 2010

<http://www.dispatch.co.za/article.aspx?id=410865>

### **Acts of aggression resolution by UN lacks international support**

Ronald Joshua

ALL that glitters is not gold. This applies to the Rome Statute which set up the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998, against the staunch opposition of the United States, giving it jurisdiction over four categories of crimes: the crime of aggression, genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The amendment of the Rome Statute agreed at Kampala will not by itself usher in a new “age of accountability” replacing the “old era of impunity” as UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon would have the world believe.

The ICC is a lame duck because some of the world’s largest and most powerful countries, including China, India, Russia and the US have not joined. And it will remain a lame duck until at least 2017, partly because what constitutes the crime of aggression has been a long- running source of contention in international law. After nearly a decade of discussion, 111 countries party to the Rome Statute have reached an agreement on the definition of the crime of aggression. The resolution was adopted after the two-week-long ICC review conference in Kampala, Uganda, on June 11.

The crime of aggression is defined as: “The planning, preparation, initiation or execution, by a person in a position effectively to exercise control over or to direct the political or military action of a State, of an act of aggression which, by its character, gravity and scale, constitutes a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations.”

It remains to be seen how far this definition will prove its mettle. But it was agreed that blockades of ports or coasts of a State by armed forces of another State, as well as an invasion or attack by troops of one State on the territory of another, would be considered acts of aggression under the statute.

Member countries also agreed that the ICC can exercise jurisdiction over crimes of aggression, but only those committed one year after 30 states have ratified the newly-made amendment.

According to the UN, this will not happen until at least 2017, when states meet again to review the amendment, according to the new resolution adopted in the Ugandan capital.

However, the Kampala resolution noted that if the ICC prosecutor wishes to move forward with an investigation of possible cases, he or she will take the case to the UN Security Council. Once that body has determined that an act of aggression has taken place, the prosecutor will move forward with a probe.

Ban , in a statement issued by his spokesperson on June 14, welcomed what he described as “the historic agreement” on the definition of aggression. At the start of the Kampala conference, Ban underlined that a new “age of accountability” is replacing the “old era of impunity”.

The new “age of accountability”, he noted, dawned with the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals, gaining strength with tribunals for Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone, Cambodia and Lebanon. “Now we have the ICC – permanent, increasingly powerful, casting a long shadow. There is no going back,” Ban stressed.

“In this new age of accountability, those who commit the worst of human crimes” – be they rank-and-file foot soldiers or top political leaders – “will be held responsible.”

Former Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic and former Liberian leader Charles Taylor are among those who have already been called to justice. “Not long ago,” he said, “this would have been unimaginable.”

But for the ICC to have the reach it needs, the UN secretary-general rightly pointed out, it must have universal support. “Only then will perpetrators have no place to hide,” he said.

One example is Sudan’s President Omar al-Bashir who already faces an arrest warrant on seven charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes. He is accused of having personally instructed his forces to annihilate three ethnic groups, the Fur, the Masalit and the Zaghawa.

As chance would have it, the very day the Kampala amendment was endorsed, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court reported to the Security Council (on June 11) that the Sudanese government-sponsored attacks against civilians continue in Darfur, with thousands of people freshly displaced from their villages and sexual violence against women also widespread.

Calling for tougher action to improve the situation in the war-racked region, Luis Moreno-Ocampo said the facts showed that war crimes were still taking place in Darfur, seven years after fighting between government forces, allied militiamen known as the Janjaweed, and rebel groups first flared.

“In February, immediately after the signing of a peace agreement and public commitments to peace, 100000 civilians were forcibly displaced by Sudanese armed forces in the Jebel Marra,” he said, referring to a mountainous area of central Darfur. Moreno-Ocampo said the modus operandi was the same as that used earlier in the conflict – “air bombardments followed by attacks of Sudanese armed forces integrating militia/Janjaweed”.

An estimated 300000 people have died in Darfur since 2003, either through fighting, disease, hunger or other consequences of conflict. Another 2.7 million people live as IDPs (internally displaced persons) or as refugees in neighbouring countries such as Chad.

Since the start of 2008 a joint UN- African Union peacekeeping operation (known as Unamid) has been in place to try to quell the fighting and alleviate the humanitarian suffering.

Moreno-Ocampo said: “There is a need for an updated, comprehensive report of the UN Secretariat on the current situations in the camps and the villages. The fragmented information on the rapes (and) on the obstacles to humanitarian assistance must be put together to allow the international community to consider the current extent of the suffering of the civilians.”

Sudanese ambassador Abdalmahmood Mohamad told journalists that the actions of Moreno-Ocampo were that of a “desperate” prosecutor, and that the situation in Darfur was actually improving for its inhabitants.

He also accused the court of being selective in pursuing cases and ignoring possible war crimes committed by other countries. Former US President Bush, for example, has been accused by independent legal experts of having committed crimes of aggression and crimes against humanity in Iraq.

*Ronald Joshua writes for IDN-InDepthNews / Analysis That Matters.*

## Congress of North American Bosniaks

Thursday, 17 June 2010

### Parliament of Canada's Bill C-533 in honor of Srebrenica Genocide Remembrance



Honourable Rob Oliphant, Member of the Canadian Parliament and Member of the Liberal Party of Canada on June 10th introduced Bill C – 533, an Act respecting a Srebrenica Remembrance Day

*The 3rd Session, 40th Parliament*  
*59 Elizabeth II, 2010*  
**HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA**

### Bill C-533

*An Act respecting a Srebrenica Remembrance Day:*

*Whereas the Srebrenica Massacre, also known as the Srebrenica Genocide, was the killing in July of 1995 of an estimated 8,000 Bosniak men and boys in the region of Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina by Bosnian Serb forces;*

*Whereas the Srebrenica Massacre is the largest mass murder in Europe since World War II and the largest massacre carried out by Serb forces during the Bosnian war;*

*Whereas the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, located in The Hague, unanimously decided in the case of Prosecutor v. Krstić that the Srebrenica Massacre was genocide;*

*Whereas the International Court of Justice ruled in February of 2007 that the Srebrenica Massacre was genocide with the specific intent to destroy Bosnian Muslims who were living in the area;*

*Whereas resolutions condemning the Srebrenica Massacre were adopted by the European Parliament on January 15, 2009, and by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in 2005;*

*Whereas on March 31, 2010, the Government of Serbia, led by President Boris Tadic, issued a full state apology for the Srebrenica Massacre, providing tacit recognition of the genocidal nature of the crime and endorsing the February 2007 ruling of the International Court of Justice;*

*And whereas the list of people missing or killed in Srebrenica, as compiled by the Federal Commission of Missing Persons of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, includes 8,373 names to date;*

*Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:*

***SHORT TITLE***

*1. This Act may be cited as the Srebrenica Remembrance Day Act. SREBRENICA REMEMBRANCE DAY*

*2. Throughout Canada, in each and every year, the eleventh day of July shall be known as "Srebrenica Remembrance Day".*

*3. For greater certainty, Srebrenica Remembrance Day is not a legal holiday or a nonjuridical day.*

**Mr. Robert Oliphant's comments in the House of Commons:**

Moved for leave to introduce Bill C-533, An Act respecting a Srebrenica Remembrance Day.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased this morning to introduce a bill that seeks to establish a national Srebrenica remembrance day to be held every July 11. I thank my colleague the hon. member for Vancouver East for seconding the bill.

In July 1995, an estimated 8,000 Bosniak men and boys were massacred in the Srebrenica region of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a UN declared safe area by Bosnian Serb forces. This was the largest mass murder in Europe since World War II.

Both the appeals chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Court of Justice ruled that the Srebrenica massacre was genocide. In addition, resolutions condemning the massacre have been passed by the European Parliament and the American House of Representatives and Senate.

This past March, the president of Serbia issued a full state apology and endorsed the ruling of the International Court of Justice.

Recognizing the devastating effects of the July 1995 Srebrenica genocide, this bill would provide the opportunity for all Canadians to stand with those in the Bosnian Canadian community to share in their pain and honour the memory of those men and boys massacred.

As we approach the 15th anniversary of this massacre, I hope this bill will serve as a step in the right direction which will ultimately provide some semblance of comfort to the survivors of this genocide and to the Bosnian community here in Canada.

May the memory of those lost never be forgotten.

**In parliamentary procedure is still Motion M – 416 introduced on August 29, 2009, by Honourable Brian Masse, Member of the Canadian Parliament**

and Member of the NDP, jointly seconded by: Mr. Siksay Douglas and Ms. Charlton Chris, on October 6, 2009.

### **Motion M – 416**

*That, in the opinion of the House, the day of July 11 should be recognized as Srebrenica Remembrance Day in memorial of the Srebrenica Massacre of July of 1995, in which more than 8,000 Bosniak civilians were executed under the policy of ethnic cleansing, declared an act of genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and 30,000 others were expelled from their homes by Serbian forces.*

### **Difference between Motion and Bill**

A motion is a proposal moved by a Member for the House to do something, to order something to be done or to express an opinion with regard to some matter. A motion might be passed in the House of Commons but that doesn't always mean any type of action has to follow. A bill is stronger. It is a proposed law submitted to Parliament for consideration and approval. It may originate either with the government, with a private Member, or from a committee, and may relate either to public or private interests.

Day of the African Child Being celebrated yesterday at Paddys Beach Bar and Restaurant



